

To both cities he addresses a
vengeful appeal:
let them show their valour in war, for it
is not only
against their neighbours, but against
the enemies
of the Church; let them defend the
crown of their
Empire against the Sicilian, so will they
make
righteous conquests.

Venice and the Greek Empire were enrolled in the confederacy. The Bishop of Havelberg was despatched by Lothar to bring the willing Basileus John to an alliance against Roger. At Merseburg, August, 1135, Greek envoys appeared with promise of aid, and demanded North Africa as their share of the spoils.

The hopes of all were raised by the news that the Sicilian was dead. In fact Roger had, in February, 1135, lost his wife Elvira whom he had married in 1120. At her death, the King's grief was very great; he shut himself up in his room for several days, and refused to see even his dearest friends. The rumour of his death naturally spread. No time was lost by the leaders of revolt in the kingdom, as soon as they heard the news; with Roger gone, and the half of Europe preparing for the great war, they united in repudiating the sub-

mission of 1134. But again the slow
march of
Lothar deceived them.

The duchy of Capua and the Terra di
Lavoro
were the first to revolt. On the 24th
April, 1135,
Robert was received into Naples
with twenty